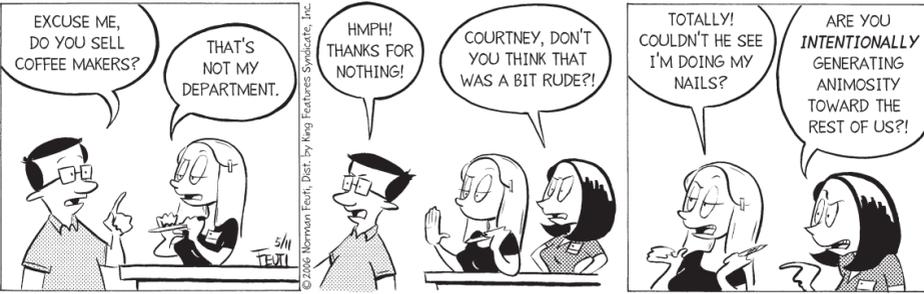
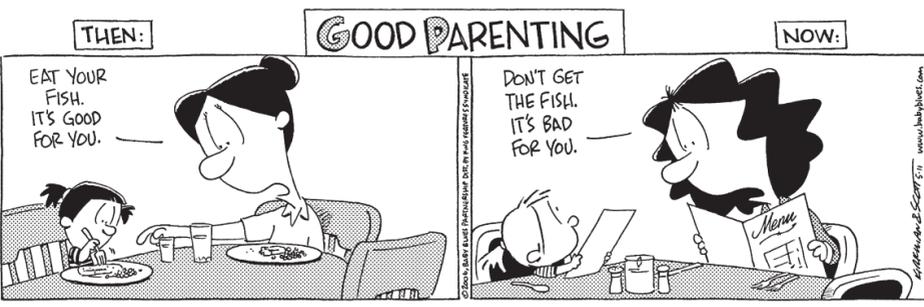


Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Garfield • Jim Davis



Blondie • Chic Young



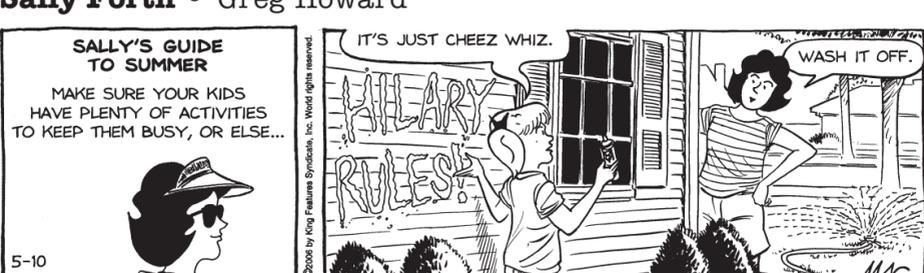
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Co-ed slumber parties not what they seem

DEAR ABBY: I believe your answer to "Perplexed in Pennsylvania" was incomplete. Co-ed slumber parties are now common, which (as you pointed out) does not make them appropriate. However, the ones my children were invited to when they were adolescents were acceptable to me because they were well chaperoned and did not involve any actual "slumber." Rather, they were an excuse to stay up all night playing board games, watching videos, eating junk food and just talking. This is different from what you might imagine, where the group of children would be sent off to the family room to fend for themselves.

You should have advised "Perplexed" to get more details about the party, particularly as to what activities were planned and who would chaperone.

— GINGER

DEAR GINGER: Perhaps. However, I'm still not sure I agree with the concept. Some readers agree with you, while others agreed with me — and that's what makes for an interesting discussion. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: When my son was a senior, three couples went to the prom together, and I invited them to stay the night. I had breakfast ready when they came in, and I'd promised the parents I'd make sure both genders had separate sleeping quarters. The guys crashed in the upstairs playroom; the girls settled in the den. I was up until 5:00 a.m. making sure I knew where everyone was.

They were all good kids, but I would warn "Perplexed" that when hormones are raging, you just don't give kids any opportunity at all. It was worth losing a night's sleep to make sure all of them were safe.

— "V" IN ASHEBORO, N.C.

DEAR ABBY: Co-ed slumber parties are nothing new — and in my experience they were harmless fun.



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

ball farther and hit harder than any boy in the class." Our sons are now grown, but we still tease them once in a while about inviting a girl to the slumber party.

— SHARON

When I was 14, I was invited to my first co-ed slumber party, hosted by a boy in my class. We went swimming, ate junk food, and watched music videos and old movies all night. Those parties were great fun, the source of some of my fondest memories of my youth. We were always under adult supervision, but no one in our group even considered doing anything inappropriate.

Of course, I grew up in a small town where all the families knew each other.

— ACM, GERMANTOWN, MD.

DEAR ABBY: Our daughter has also been invited to co-ed slumber parties. We let her go; however, we picked her up at 10:00 p.m. or as soon as the planned activities were finished.

— TUCSON, ARIZ., MOM

DEAR ABBY: I attended a few co-ed overnights in high school, and I can tell you that PLENTY happened. Tell that mother to stick to her guns!

— MOM FROM MICHIGAN

DEAR ABBY: When our twin sons were given permission to ask five friends each to their 9th birthday party, one son's list contained the expected familiar names. The other gave me four boys' names and ... Wendy! I hesitated and asked, "You invited a girl to a boys' slumber party?" Our son thought nothing of it.

I called his teacher (a friend of mine) to obtain Wendy's phone number, and when I explained why I needed it, she laughed and said she could understand why Wendy was invited. "She can run faster, throw a

DEAR ABBY: Last year, on April 30, my 16-year-old son was hit by a car and killed. He was walking with friends in the rain on a dark road at night. The driver of the car says he never saw my son, although he was wearing a dark sweatshirt with white designs on it, black pants and a white hat. I will never know exactly what was going on in my son's head, walking in the rain at night. And I will have to live with the pain of losing him for the rest of my life.

I would like to urge other parents out there that whenever your sons or daughters leave the house — no matter what time of day or night it is — make sure they have some sort of bright clothing on or with them. You never know when they might be walking in the dark.

Also, no matter what is going on in your life, or theirs, please make sure that you always tell them you love them. Because in just a snap of a finger, your child could be gone.

— SAD IN CLINTON, MASS.

DEAR SAD: Please accept my deepest sympathy for the tragic loss of your son. Your message is worth repeating, and it applies to adults as well as young people. Pedestrians as well as bicycle riders should make absolutely certain they can be seen by drivers by wearing reflective clothing at night. No one wants to think of him- or herself as a statistic, but accidents can and do happen to anyone. An ounce of prevention.

Editor's note: Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

Bridge

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ Q 9 8 4
 ♥ A
 ♦ A 7 6 4 3
 ♣ J 8 4

WEST
 ♠ 6 5
 ♥ 8 7 4 2
 ♦ Q 10 2
 ♣ K Q 10 9

EAST
 ♠ 7 2
 ♥ J 10 5 3
 ♦ K 8
 ♣ 7 6 5 3 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A K J 10 3
 ♥ K Q 9 6
 ♦ J 9 5
 ♣ A

The bidding:
 South 1 ♠ Pass
 West 2 ♠ Pass
 North 2 ♠ Pass
 East 3 ♠ Pass

Opening lead — king of clubs.

A Very Hot Potato

It is an undeniable fact of bridge life that every once in a while, a reasonable bidding sequence leads to a poor contract. Declarer is nevertheless obliged to give the assignment his best shot. Sometimes he might even be able to enlist the defenders' support to help him achieve his goal.

Take this case where South reached six spades as shown and West led the king of clubs. It was immediately apparent to declarer that the slam would fail unless he could somehow avoid losing two diamond tricks. Since there were very few legitimate holdings that would allow only one diamond loser (West having the singleton king or queen, or either opponent having the K-Q alone), South decided his best chance lay in the hope of inducing a defensive slip.

At trick two, he led a diamond to the ace, both opponents following low. He then cashed the ace of hearts, A-K of trumps and K-Q of hearts, discarding two clubs from dummy. South ruffed his last heart in dummy and then exited with a diamond, losing to East's king. Since East had only clubs left, he had no choice but to lead one, allowing South to discard his jack of diamonds as he ruffed in dummy, and the slam was home.

The key play was the diamond to the ace at trick two. Once East followed low to this trick, there was no way for the defenders to wriggle out of the position South had visualized. Had East foreseen what was coming, he could have dropped his king under the ace to avert the impending endplay, but this was certainly not an easy play to make at such an early stage.

Observe that had declarer telegraphed his intentions by clearing all his hearts and clubs before playing a diamond to the ace, it would have been much easier for East to jettison his king, and West would then have scored two diamond tricks. The diamond play came too early for East to realize that his king was a very hot potato.

Cryptoquip

KS F SKIPDU NKXD IFEU
 DFKIM SNCW FB KMIFBE
 BTFN MKXKIU, KM MDT
 F WFIPP-WKIICBFKNT?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I JUST JOINED A LEAGUE THAT I USED TO BELONG TO. I SUPPOSE THAT MEANS I'M RE-MEMBERED.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals F

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Grandma never loses her phone. It's fastened to the wall."

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Mediocre
 5 Ump
 8 Vaulted area
 12 Verdi opera
 13 Eggs
 14 California wine valley
 15 Close up tight
 16 Wrestling surface
 17 Despot
 18 One side of the Urals
 20 Wading bird
 22 "Indiana" novelist
 26 "Animal House" college
 29 Chic no more
 30 Prohibit
 31 Aware of
 32 Turn blue?
 33 Ad writer's award
 34 Wildebeest
 35 Monk's title

DOWN

1 Contemptible
 2 Stead
 3 Hebrew month
 4 Fluorine, or Kournikova
 5 Mercutio's pal
 6 Actress Longoria
 7 Tiredness
 8 Oppositionists
 9 Good enough
 10 Resort
 11 Listener
 19 Apiece
 21 Wager
 23 Queenly
 24 Get the goods on

25 Discontinue
 26 Banyans and sycamores, e.g.
 27 Karenina or Kournikova
 28 Edge
 32 Exhibited
 33 Habitual
 35 Consumer watchdog grp.
 36 Main ingredient in lipstick
 38 Plumbing problems
 39 Detroit dud
 42 "Let's Make a Deal" option
 43 Golden rule
 44 Daytime TV fare
 45 Earl Grey, e.g.
 46 Scenery chews
 48 In olden days

Solution time: 25 mins.

C A T H E N
 S L U R S A R I S
 B L A D E A M I G O S
 S E W I N G M A C H I N E
 A D S T O O N S R O N
 M O N A P E W S
 S T U N G S P I E S
 F I R M E A S E
 A M O K E L L Y T U B
 R O W I N G M A C H I N E
 N E W A G E H A B I T
 L A V E R I R I S
 S E R C P A

Yesterday's answer 5-11

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
 12 13 14
 15 16 17
 18 19 20 21
 22 23 24 25
 26 27 28 29 30
 31 32 33
 34 35 36
 37 38 39
 40 41 42 43 44
 45 46 47 48 49
 50 51 52
 53 54 55